

Wise County Messenger.

A NEWSPAPER WITH AN OPINION OF ITS OWN.

VOLUME XXXXIII All-Home Print

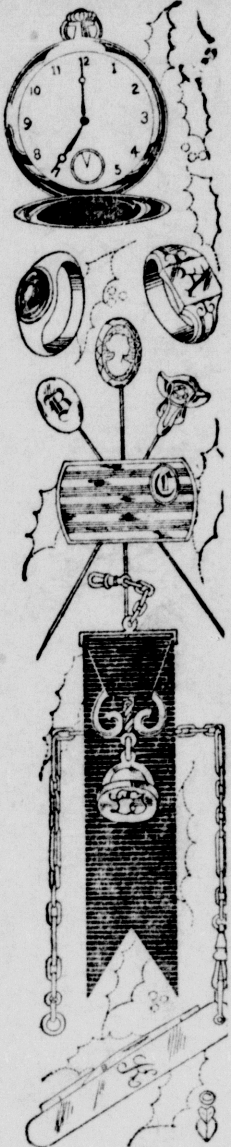
DECATUR, TEXAS, FRIDAY, December 10, 1920.

\$1.50 Per Year

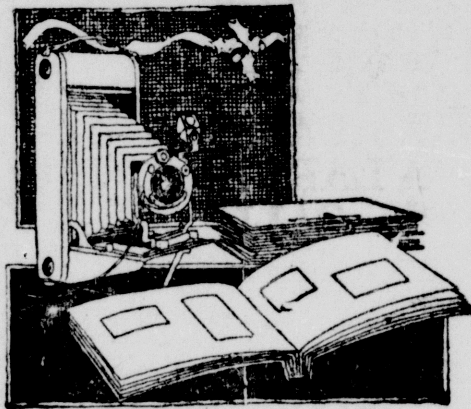
NUMBER 50.

Holiday Gifts

Watches,
Birthday Rings
Emblems,
Brooches,
Cut Glass,
Vallieres,
Community Silverware,
Wrist Watches,
Bracelets,
Beauty Pins,
Watch Chains,



Diamond Rings,
Diamond Ear Rings,
Carving Sets,
Tie Clasps,
Watch Fobs,
Cuff Buttons,
Lodge Emblems,
Pins, Rings and Fobs,
Hat Pins,
Manicure Sets,
Desk Sets



Decatur Jewelry Co.

CHRISTMAS



ONLY FIFTEEN DAYS OFF

—But we are ready for you with complete stocks for your inspection. Here are some gifts suggestions:—

Community Plate Silverware...\$1.50 to \$19.85
Jewelry.....Priced to Suit Every Purse
Cut Glass.....\$1.50 to \$1.50
Ivory Goods.....\$1.25 to \$8.50
Kodaks and Cameras.....\$2.86 to \$24.92
Kodak Albums.....75c to \$5.00
Eversharp Pencils.....\$1.00 to \$6.00
Fountain Pens.....\$1.00 to \$10.00
Box Papers.....65c to \$5.00
Perfume sets.....50c to \$10.00
Box Candies.....65c to \$8.75
Bix Cigars (25 to box).....\$1.25 to \$5.00
Eye Glasses (Fitted to your eyes) ..\$5 to \$25

E. W. BASS & CO.

DRUGGISTS, JEWELERS & OPTICIANS

HOKETT PAROLED AFTER SERVING YEARS IN PRISON

While Wearing Stripes He
Asked for Reading Mat-
ter, Requesting Story
of His Trial Here

A. J. Hokett, convicted here in the district court in 1909 on the charge of murdering his wife, is now out on parole, having recently been liberated upon recommendation of Governor Hobby. The case against Hokett attracted interest and large crowds of people attended the trial daily. Judge J. W. Patterson presided during the trial, and the case was hotly contested. All the evidence against Hokett was of circumstantial character, but it was the strongest and most convincing that was ever introduced in any court in this section. Mrs. Hokett was found dead in bed with her head almost completely blown away by the charge from a shotgun, which was found lying across the body. A note, or letter, was found under the mattress on which the body was found, and on this letter the defense founded the plea of self-destruction. In this letter, which bore the signature of Mrs. Hokett, the statement was made that she was tired of life, fearing that she would go insane, and had decided to kill herself. The words in the letter were printed with a lead pencil. This letter was compared with letters written by Hokett and the words "childern," "thim," and "dose" were spelled alike in both letters. Other convincing circumstances were also brought out, and the jury, after deliberating a short time, returned a verdict assessing Hokett's punishment at hard labor in the state prison for life. While serving in prison, Hokett, claiming that he was then at work on a sugar plantation, was lonely and desiring reading matter, requested the court stenographer who reported his case, to send him a type-written copy of the evidence introduced at the trial.

News from Chico.

(Chico Review.)

Mr. C. R. Hall was in town Tuesday with the hide of a large ring-tail cat his boys had caught a few nights previous. It is said that species is rare in this country.

J. T. Counts has moved from his river farm to Sand Flat, where he will put in 70 acres of peanuts. He's rented part of his river farm to Geo. Weatherby.

John E. Jones, president of the Wise-Comanche-Burk Oil Company, was in Chico this week, and was highly pleased with the prospects for oil in the well east of town.

Our educational board decided to begin the compulsory attendance on Monday, December 6, 1920. Every child living within the Chico Independent District, and those who have been transferred to this district within the attendance area will be compelled by law to enroll and attend regularly.

H. M. Flowers was in Chico Tuesday evening and reported his school at Willow Springs progressing nicely. This is Buster's fifth year at that place and he is certainly making good.

Jake Robinson loaded a car with sand this week to ship to builders at Wichita Falls. This makes eight cars of sand shipped from Chico by Mr. Robinson in the last few weeks.

We are having great interest, regular attendance and good work in the high school at the present time. We have the second largest high school in the county, and the teachers and a majority of the students are striving to make it the best in the state in quality of work done.

The Wise County Baptist Missionary Union was held at Chico, November 30, 1920, beginning at 10:30 a. m. The day was fine and there were more than eighty ladies present. The spirit of the Lord was indeed present, and the program was a feast to the souls of those who listened. Mrs. R. E. Gibson, county president, presided.

NOTICE!

The Milligan Gin Company will gin on Friday and Saturday only of next week, and farmers with cotton to be ginned make their arrangements early.
MILLIGAN GIN COMPANY.

SLIDELL PIONEER CITIZEN IS GIVEN BIRTHDAY DINNER

Relatives and Friends of A.
R. Drake Stage Celebra-
tion for him on Six-
ty-Fifth Birthday

On Tuesday, December 7, the children of Mr. A. R. Drake, one of the old settlers, and one of the most respected citizens, who some years ago served his people as county commissioner, treated him and many of his friends to a delightful surprise at his home in Slidell. This was Mr. Drake's sixty-fifth birthday. The children, for the purpose of executing their plan, were forced to reveal the same to Mrs. Drake, but never did Mr. Drake suspicion the frame-up, until the children with guests whom they had invited to enjoy the occasion began to arrive. The children whose names appear later, bringing most of the feast with them, consisting of pea-cock, turkey, chicken, boiled ham and many other good things to eat too numerous to mention here.

The children present were: Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Muncey and family, Mr. J. M. Drake and family, Mr. L. B. Drake and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Higgs and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Cearley and family, thirteen grand-children and two great-grand-children, and three grand-daughters by marriage.

Other invited guests were: Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Watson, Mrs. Mollie Denniston, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McCarroll, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rudd, Mrs. J. P. Turner and her sister, Mrs. Sue C. Long, Mr. Lee Higgs and wife, Miss Nena Reid and Laura Lee Doyle.

During the afternoon the guests were entertained with music, old time singing and games. Late in the day the company bade their happy host good-bye, wishing many returns of the pleasant day. As befitting the occasion, the guests were transported from their homes in Slidell, to the Drake farm in covered wagons.

News from Rhome

Bill Hudnall is visiting relatives at Borriston.

J. H. Troxell and family were in Fort Worth Friday.

Robert Stephens of Houston, visited homefolks last week.

Paul Morris of Fort Worth, is here spending a few days with relatives.

Miss Gertrude Horton of D. B. C., spent the week-end with homefolks.

Earl Van Meter returned Tuesday from a business trip to Western counties.

Miss Lita Smith of Dallas, was the guest of Miss Gypsy Coats last week-end.

Miss Gable Sue Carpenter visited her parents in Decatur Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Eileen Rowan of Decatur, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rowan, over Sunday.

Mrs. Jess Atwood and son, Wilmet, of Comanche, have been visiting Mrs. Zora Brown.

Mrs. Chas. Rowland and children of Fort Worth, were guests of Miss Maggie Morris Sunday.

Mrs. G. W. Troxell and daughter, Miss Rita, of Chico, were week-end guests of relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Troxell entertained the younger set with forty-two party Saturday night.

Mrs. M. W. Burch of Decatur, spent a few days, first part of the week with her mother, Mrs. D. P. Shaw.

A. C. Alexander, former cashier of the First National Bank, now residing in Snyder, spent a few hours in Rhome Thursday.

Little Elaine Handley, four-year-old daughter of Prof. and Mrs. S. D. Handley, died Friday morning at five o'clock, after an illness of only a few hours. Funeral services were held in the First Methodist church in Decatur. Interment was made at the family burying grounds in the Decatur cemetery. A large number of sympathizing friends from Rhome attended the funeral. Heart-felt sympathy is expressed for the grief-stricken parentage in their hour of deep sorrow.

TRUST

We consider each trust a sacred obligation. We fulfill our duties in an able, dignified manner. Our record for fair dealing is well known. Fairness in everything is the motto of this organization.

MAN & CHRISTIAN

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
PHONES - S.W. 72, IND. 186
DECATUR - TEXAS

Indigestion

Many persons, otherwise vigorous and healthy, are bothered occasionally with indigestion. The effects of a disordered stomach on the system are dangerous, and prompt treatment of indigestion is important. "The only medicine I have needed has been something to aid digestion and clean the liver," writes Mr. Fred Ashby, a McKinney, Texas, farmer. "My medicine is

Theford's

BLACK-DRAUGHT

for indigestion and stomach trouble of any kind. I have never found anything that touches the spot, like Black-Draught. I take it in broken doses after meals. For a long time I tried pills, which gripped and didn't give the good results. Black-Draught liver medicine is easy to take, easy to keep, inexpensive."

Get a package from your druggist today—Ask for and insist upon Theford's—the only genuine.

Get it today.

RICH BENEFITS

There is not a single reason why you should deny yourself the benefits of rich, nourishing

Scott's Emulsion

Far better than alcoholic tonics or medicines, every drop of Scott's contributes to strength and better health. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J. 20-10

Belw's Barber Shop

Sanitary and Satisfactory Service. Your Patronage Appreciated. Spencer Bldg. West Side

Abstracts made to Wise County Lands.

All kinds of insurance written.

CATES ABSTRACT CO.
Decatur -o- Texas

M. W. Burch

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
Office - McMurray-Gettys Building



Toyland's Christmas Shop!

THERE NEVER WAS SUCH A FINE LOT OF TOYS IN TOWN AS WE ARE NOW SHOWING. THIS IS THE TOY-SHOP OF THE COUNTY AND WE ARE PREPARED TO HELP SANTA CLAUS MAKE ALL THE CHILDREN HAPPY. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF TOYS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS—DOLLS, DOLL DRESSERS, DOLL BEDS AND BUGGIES, FOOTBALLS AND BOXING GLOVES, KIDDIE-KARS, TOY WHEELBARROWS, BICYCLES, TRICYCLES, AIR-GUNS, MECHANICAL TRAINS, WAGONS, ETC.—BUT WE CAN'T BEGIN TO NAME THEM HERE—YOU MUST COME AND SEE THEM. BRING THE CHILDREN ALONG TO SEE THE MANY PRETTY THINGS ON DISPLAY!

FOR THE GROWN-UPS

WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF VERY APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL GIFTS IN ALUMINUM-WARE OF MANY PATTERNS, SILVERWARE IN THE NEW DESIGNS. PLAIN AND FANCY CHINA, CUT GLASS, PRETTY PATTERNS IN QUEENSWARE. A LARGE STOCK OF THE MOST ACCEPTABLE GIFTS. CALL AND MAKE SELECTIONS EARLY.

LILLARD & COMPANY

High School Bulletin

Composed by Students Attending the Decatur High Schools.

Locals.

Christine St. Clair of D. B. C., visited us Monday.

Arthur Kidd has re-entered high school from D. B. C.

Not many more nights till we can hang up our stockings!

Lorene Johnston visited in Bridgeport Saturday and Sunday.

When do we become failures? When we stop trying not to be one.

Mildred Witt and Margaret Terrell of D. B. C., visited D. H. S. Monday.

The four-forty class seems to be increasing and some have received thirty minutes' encore.

The Decatur band has promised to assist the high school pupils in entertaining the people on December 13.

"Dost thou love life? Then, waste

not time, for time is the stuff that life is made of."—Benjamin Franklin.

"He who serves well and speaks not, merits more than those who clamor loudest at the door."—Lorenz fellow.

Some pupils go to the show every night and never look at their books, and yet they wonder why they get D and F on their report cards!

Most everyone is studying hard but there are some who have not yet felt the agony of a high school mid-term exam. Better listen to Tom and get busy.

The state teachers' examination was held in the auditorium Friday and Saturday. We extend sympathy to those taking it, if it is like all exams we've met thus far.

There are two suspicious looking quart bottles on the desk in the study hall; but Faust Nobles says it's just red and blue ink—and so it is, but the red can do much damage—to report cards.

Teacher—"Stimpson, why in the world are you so good. I've not had to correct you today?"

Stimpson—"Not nothin's the matter with me; but it's jest twenty more days till Christmas!"

Because of weather conditions, the program which was to be given Tuesday, December 7th, will be given on Tuesday, December 13th. Everyone come and help the high school. Admission 25 and 15 cents. High school auditorium at 7:30 o'clock.

DIGEST THIS

No difficulty is too serious for solution.

Some men seem to go around thru a community with a grudge against their neighbor, telling everybody about it but the one person they should tell.

In New York and other large places the presidents of large institutions go to their places of business daily for only one thing—solving the day's perplexing problems. The average time given to these complex questions is about ten minutes. A decision is reached and for years things go along smoothly because of their action.

What a wonderful lesson for those who bear malice and hatred toward a neighbor or business associate for months and even years, because they do not go directly to the one most

interested and lay their "grudge" or "trouble" frankly before him—ten minutes would relieve the situation and in many, many cases clear it of an old score and make happy dozens of people immediately connected on both sides.

An armistice for the German army saved millions of homes from destruction. An armistice between two "old grouches" would save many a home also. Let's try and forget the past. Look to the dawn of a new made day for new hope and aspiration, lay aside all little petty jealousies and misunderstandings and with a hearty hand shake and a big broad smile greet the man whom you think has insulted you, and he will gladly welcome the earnest spirit shown and forget the past also and dwell with you in the happiness of the new made comradeship.

WHAT'S TIME TO A HAWG?

The northern hustler told the Georgie cracker he was a fool for taking six months to fatten his swine on acorns in the woods when he could fatten them in six weeks on corn. The old fellow spat scornfully and drawled, "Hub! What's time to a hawk?"

Man is the only animal that has any conception of time. Only when a dumb brute is racing toward food or away from danger, is time of value to that animal; and not the concept of time but the impulse of hunger or fear gives speed to his racing limbs.

Let that thought sink in, and remember—"What's time to a hawk?" Of all the boasted attributes that raise you so high above the brute creation, no one is more intensely vital than your appreciation of the value of time.

Eight to six—nine hours of daily grind? No!—No!—Nine hours of precious opportunity. Golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes and every diamond is yours, to invest for your profit, or to squander like a wanton.

Hoard those precious diamonds, friends, pay them out grudgingly—make every one bring back its minute's worth of something done worth while.

For time is the stuff that life is made of—and what you make of your life is a measure of the use you make of your time.

Time is opportunity. It is yours; and the man who piles up wealth is the one who early starts a time-savings account in the bank of ambition.

Throw away your money if you will—your loss is somebody else's gain; but hoard time like a miser, for a minute lost is lost forever—to you and all the world.

Senator Guinn Williams is this week attending a meeting of the Masonic lodge in Waco. One day next week Senator Williams and Governor-elect Neff will be the honor guests of the Waco Chamber of Commerce.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

First State Bank

at Boonsville, Texas

At close of business Nov. 15, 1920.

RESOURCES

Loans and discounts, personal or collateral.....	\$ 50,147 78
Overdrafts.....	1,318 58
Bonds and stocks.....	647 10
Real estate (bk's house).....	700 00
Furniture and fixtures.....	900 00

Due from other banks, bankers, and cash on hand.....	9,379 28
Interest in depositors' guaranty fund.....	518 85
Assessment in depositors' guaranty fund.....	19 55

TOTAL.....\$ 64,031 14

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 10,000 00
Surplus fund.....	5,000 00
Undivided profits, net.....	1,090 40
Individual deposits, subject to check.....	33,746 39
Cashier's checks.....	1,694 35
Bills payable and discounts.....	12,500 00

TOTAL.....\$ 64,031 14

State of Texas, county of Wise. We, W. P. Cannon, as president, and K. A. Osburn, as cashier of said bank, each of us, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.—W. P. CANNON, President. K. A. OSBURN, Cashier.

CORRECT—Attest: JAS. WIMBERLY, JACK HOLLAND, ESTHER SANDERS, Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of November, A. D., 1920.—J. W. CARSON, Notary Public in and for Wise county, Texas.

Terrell Rowland, living in the Audubon community, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Deputy Sheriff Sid Yale of Alvord. It is charged that Rowland forged the name of Bill Rowlett of Alvord to checks he cashed at the Security State bank and the City National bank in this city. One check was for \$50 and the other was for \$60, drawn on the Alvord State bank. After cashing these checks Rowland visited the Perkins-Timberlake Company, where he cashed a check for \$15, then he went across the street to Helm-Dillehay Company, and cashed another for \$15. Cashier Earl Standley of the Security State became suspicious and learned that the check his bank had cashed was forged, and he immediately got on the young man's trail and followed him into the Alvord community. Standley reported the matter to Deputy Sheriff Sid Yale at Alvord, and in a short time the efficient deputy had arrested Mr. Rowland. Yesterday afternoon the young man was brought to Decatur.

DO'S AND DONT'S AT THE

Thoughtfulness on Part of Patrons
Uncle Sam Will Assist Clerks
and Carriers.

DONT put off mailing the package until Christmas eve.

Don't neglect to mail properly. It is handled at least five times before it reaches its destination.

Don't forget to write your own return address on all parcel post matter.

Don't guess at the postage and give your friends the pleasure of paying "postage due."

Don't plaster Red Cross stamps on the face of packages or letters; take care not to "seal" parcel post packages with them. It raises the rate.

Don't forget that a little thoughtfulness on your part can help to make Christmas happier for Uncle Sam, his horses and his automobile.

Do mail early, preferably before December 20th, writing on your packages: "Not to be opened until Christmas."

Do your best to use the post office in the forenoon, the earlier the better.

Do write legibly, both the address to which you are sending the gift and your own return address.

Do be courteous and "Christmasy" to the post office men who serve you. They are handling thousands of pieces of mail matter.

Do be brief at the counter. You keep someone else waiting if you are loaded like an express truck, with packages and foolish questions.

THINGS THE BOYS LONG FOR

Youngsters Prefer Toys or Contrivances to Test Their Muscular Skill or Endurance.

WHAT shall be said of that bawling dering kindness of home that considers giving the boy presents of such things as he actually needs? It is an outrage upon the spirit of Christmas to present him with new shoes, ties, handkerchiefs—something that he knows he will get anyway—when his sleeping and waking dreams for weeks before have been filled with visions of tops, balls, and magic lanterns, says Mr. Maders in the Woman's Home Companion. The most beautiful knife ever made cannot compare with a jack-knife, four blades and a cork-screw attachment, when exhibited over the back fence to a neighbor boy on Christmas morning. Very soon after the days of kills a boy reaches the age when he yearns with his whole soul after any toy or contrivance that will test his muscular skill or endurance. This age an appropriate present would be a rawhide or rope lariat, such as is used by the Buffalo Bill riders. A pair of hand or arm stilts will be received with equal favor, and in the same category comes a new fishing rod, snow shoes, tennis racket, golf clubs, a good ball, lamp or cyclometer for his wheel, or even a live pet new dog, a pair of rabbits or pigs—something that he can train for his own.

Funny Christmas Habit.

There is not a drug store, cigar or barroom in the larger cities which has not been made the storage room for Christmas presents bought before the rush sets in. The strange part of it is that every man who utilizes his friendship of his favorite place at the corner thinks he is the only one who thought of the plan. Realize that the stores will be crowded, many far-sighted heads of families bought their presents a week in advance, and then, fearing the nature of the mysterious package would be discovered at the office or at home, they hit upon the device of making a cache in some resort near home.



ANNUALLY
Toys for little Willie,
Something for the cook;
Make, with forty other things,
The empty pocketbook.

Plants for Christmas.

Other things being equal, it is better to buy plants near one's home than to travel afar. Do not be tempted, even by cheap offers, to go miles away, for counting car fares, packing, expressage and lost time, the ultimate cost is very likely to be more than if you paid a good deal higher price at home. Of course it may happen that one grower or florist has a large stock of some one thing and can sell at a low rate, but dealers usually have an understanding with one another especially regarding holiday prices, and for weeks before the holiday season they have been balancing stock with each other, so that the better quality plants are of an almost fixed value.

Christmas in Days of Yore.

There are many old and strange monies and many historic customs connected with Christmas, well worth perusing, and the impulses of ye ancient times for fathers and our fathers' fathers have been revealed.

PRACTICAL -CHRISTMAS GIFTS-

VACUUM CLEANER	ELECTRIC CURLING IRON
ELECTRIC CHURN	ELECTRIC VIBRATOR
WASHING MACHINE	BOUDOIR SET
ELECTRIC WARMING PAD	SEWING MACHINE
SEW E-Z MOTOR	READING LAMP
ELECTRIC PERCOLATOR	CHAFING DISH
ELECTRIC TOASTER	

—PLACE YOUR ORDER EARLY—

TERMS IF DESIRED

DECATUR LIGHT & WATER CO.

USE OF CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Good St. Nicholas, Saint of Fourth Century of Christian Era, Founder of Custom.

CHRISTMAS stockings have come down to us from the good St. Nicholas, who was a saint of the fourth century of the Christian era and was born December 6, 342, in Lycia, Asia Minor. He was regarded as especially the patron saint of children, young girls and sailors. The Christmas stocking custom arose as follows:

It seems that St. Nicholas, who was the archbishop of Myra, lived in the same town with an impoverished nobleman who because he had no portions to give his daughters, and indeed no means with which to support them, was about to sell them into a life of sin. St. Nicholas, who was accustomed to dispense his large fortune in gifts of charity, resolved to rescue the young women. As he approached, their house wondering how he should proceed, the moon shone out and displayed an open window. Instantly St. Nicholas threw a purse of gold in at the window which, falling at the feet of the father of the girls, enabled him to portion his oldest daughter. The second time St. Nicholas visited the house he also was able to throw a purse of gold through an open window, thus providing for the portion of the second daughter. On the third visit the father, watching for his benefactor, cast himself at the feet of the saint and cried:

"Oh, St. Nicholas, servant of God, why seek to hide thyself?"

The saint made the father promise not to reveal his benefactions. From this habit of bestowing gifts in secret and under the cloak of night arose the practice of putting out shoes or stockings for the younger members of the family, so that the good saint would be able to fill them without being spied on. At one time it was the custom for young women pupils in convents on the eve of Saint Nicholas to hang their new silk stockings on the door of the apartment of the abbess. They would also write notes calling the attention of the good St. Nicholas to their stockings. In the morning when the convent pupils who had not been home for the holidays arose they invariably found their stockings filled with sweetmeats.

BE SURE GIFTS WILL PLEASE

In Making Same Articles for Friends It Is Well to Be Sure of Appreciation.

A WOMAN tells in recently published magazines how she has a "pillow Christmas" for the benefit of her many friends. She consulted the piece bag, and from it drew forth the materials for making any quantity of dainty sofa pillows, all destined for different friends. The cost of the materials was chiefly that spent for silk cords, for embroidery silk and filling for the completed pillows. Nearly all the pillows were made by stitching figures cut from contrasting materials on a chosen background, and the result was completed. The very same idea might also be carried into effect by the girl who loves to make dainty stocks. There never was a time when the prevailing styles offered such a dainty array of collars, and a box of assorted colors and kinds would be welcomed by any girl friend. There might be found in the piece bag all sorts of bits of silk and ribbon which could be fashioned into the daintiest of dressy stocks, as well as bits of lawn and percale which would do nicely for stocks for every day wear with cotton shirt waists. The gift of a box of stocks might be made valuable if the box itself was a thing of beauty, and this could be brought to pass by the girl who is expert with her needle. Giving the same sort of gift to a large number of people is perfectly proper if the gift is one which is calculated to please everybody. We've heard the story of a nice old lady who always made pin-cushions for all her nieces and mittens for all her nephews every year. It was said that her plan gave great pleasure to the person, the aunt. It's a good idea to be sure your gifts will be appreciated before you go into the wholesale manufacture of one style of article for every one.



OH BOY
"I shall hope to catch you under the mistletoe Christmas eve."
"If you do, I warn you now, I'll be too busy to see you."

Christmas Animals

They're red.
They're of rubber!
They're for baby
They're good chewing
They cannot possibly wound
They are wonderfully good
They are...

WHY SHE BELIEVED IN HIM

Kills Two Birds With One Stone—Engagement Ring for Christmas Present.

BEFORE opening the slight Christmas token I have brought you, Miss Clara," said Mr. MacNerve, as he took from his inside pocket a small package and handed it to the young lady in question, "I think it best to acquaint you, in my imperfect way, with the state of my feelings. To come to the point in as brief and practical a manner as possible, sparing you all the unnecessary details, I may as well tell you at once that I love you. From the moment that I first met you I was fully aware that this was inevitable. The more I set my mind against it, the more I struggled to control myself—to be strong—the more hopelessly I became involved. You will naturally ask at once why I should struggle against a passion which is admitted by all to be the source of the greatest happiness known to humanity. But I could not regard the matter in a selfish light. It was done, Miss Clara, because I have doubted all along whether a man in my circumstances had it in his power to make a girl like yourself, who has been reared in such luxury, entirely happy in the new and changed conditions that matrimony leads to. Was it right in me, I said to myself, to jeopardize your happiness by asking you to share the lot of one, who, while his present salary is a fairly comfortable one, is not at the same time prepared to say positively that he will succeed? I have now put the case before you. I know you to be a sensible girl, and one whose intuitions I am sure will lead you aright. After this brief explanation I beg of you therefore to look at my gift, and, if your heart tells you to do so, accept it from the man who loves you above all others."

Hastily breaking the seal the young girl he addressed gazed for a brief interval at the beautiful object that lay in her hand. Then advancing swiftly to where he stood she threw her arms around the neck of the man who had so worthily won her, exclaiming with a glad cry:

"Dearest, how can I doubt you! Any man who is cute enough to kill two birds with one stone by giving a girl an engagement ring for her Christmas present cannot help but succeed!"

CHRISTMAS THINGS FOR BOYS

Youngsters Like Presents That Afford Amusement as Well as Being of Educational Nature.

IT IS to be wondered if the small boy's taste and temperament are really and truly considered when buying gifts that are meant to appeal to his inventive mind, or whether we simply purchase for him some toy or object of entertainment which we in our never-failing judgment think fit that he should have. It happens oftentimes that the boy who would give half his little kingdom for the Humpty-Dumpty circus that some other small youth received as his share from the Christmas pack receives a necktie, a pair of gloves and books, and vice versa. With the host of wonderful inventions for the entertainment and education of childhood, why not study the boy's bent and give him something with which to develop his bent?

One boy, in fact many, would prize a box of tools, and these very desirable outfits may be had in any size desired; another lad of the spirited age of ten or twelve, would like a football and a suit to play in; the mechanical mind just revels over the mechanism of a wonderfully constructed railway, a miniature airplane, or just a simple engine that can be made to run gives hours of pleasure; then there is the popular pushmobile, the wonderful joy everlasting, while snow and ice lasts, sled and ice skates. If the young man is a collector of stamps, large packages of foreign postage may be had, and the nearest approach to attending a moving picture show is to give the boy a postcard projector with which he can have a picture show of his own and invite the other boys if he wants to.

To these few suggestions may be added games, boy scout stories, numerous articles of wearing apparel and possibly a watch, an Indian or some other masquerade outfit, a wigwag and so on through an indeterminate list, but give him something he wants.



CHEAP ENOUGH
She: Now George, I want you to give me something cheap for Christmas.
He: I was going to offer myself.

Impossible to Resist Influence.

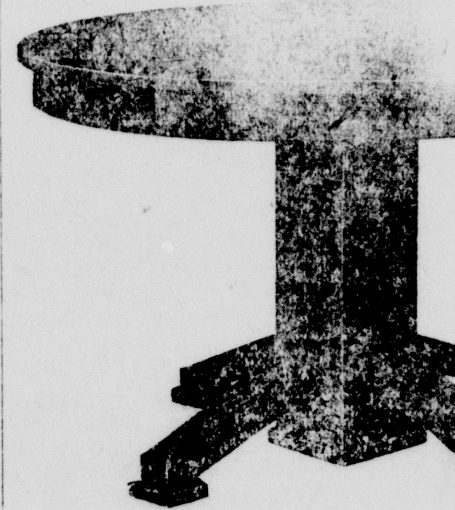
It is quite impossible to resist the sweet influence of the coming holiday. One can't see a drift of symmetrical delight over that which serves toadden at mankind. The very air seems to have caught the inspiration of the hour and no one can fail to per-



Christmas Presents Worthwhile



- Cedar Chests
- Library Tables
- Dining Tables
- Axminster and Velvet Rugs
- Buffets
- Kitchen Cabinets
- Chifforobes
- Dressers
- Wood and Iron Beds
- DeLuxe Springs
- Dreamland Mattress
- Feather Pillows
- Army Blankets
- Fold Beds
- Table-Beds
- Gas and Oil Stoves



This Christmas will be different—you are considering only two things in your Christmas shopping—ECONOMY AND SERVICE.

Let your gift be FURNITURE or a GRAFONOLA, and it will be both economical and serviceable, because it can be a family gift and something that every member of the family will appreciate and enjoy.

Come in and let us show you our stock of useful articles for the home; make your selection and have it delivered at your command.

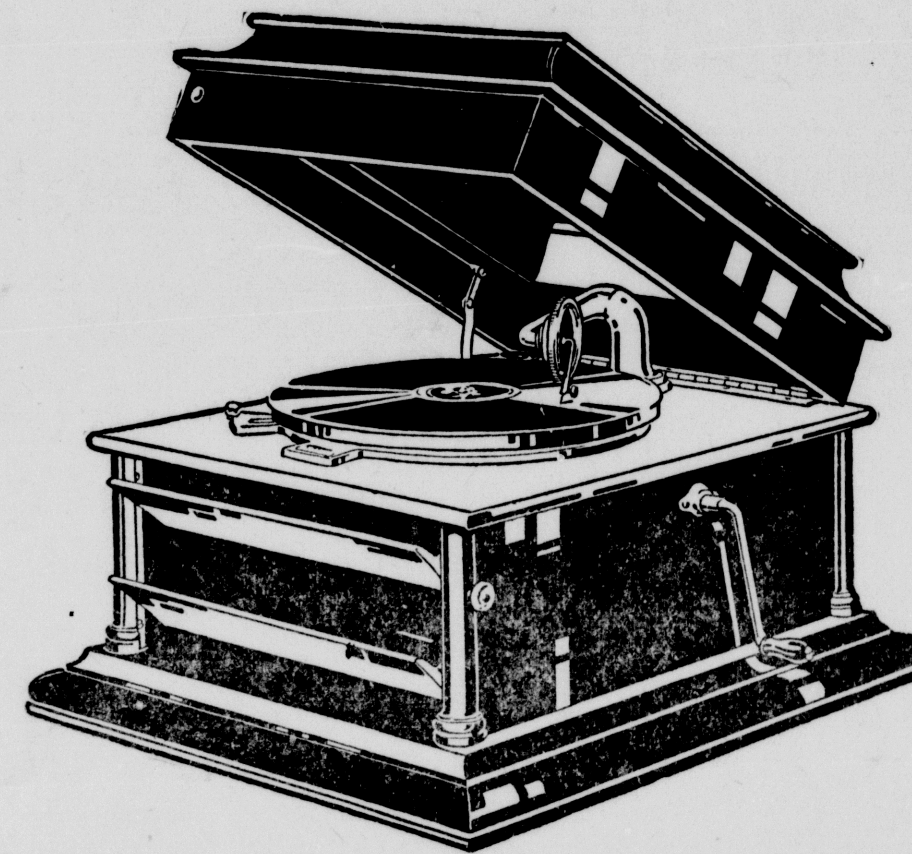


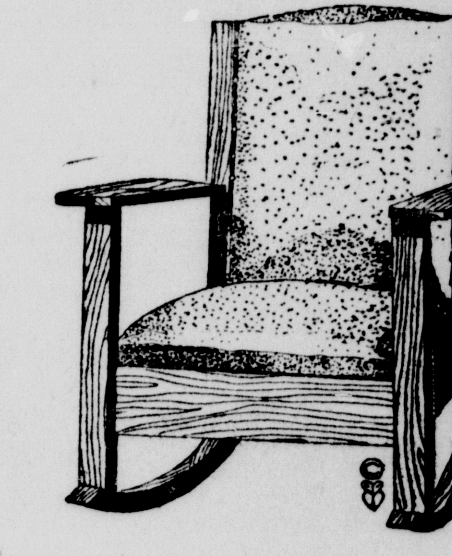
Table Bed
For Christmas

YOUNG OR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BETTER NEW YEAR!

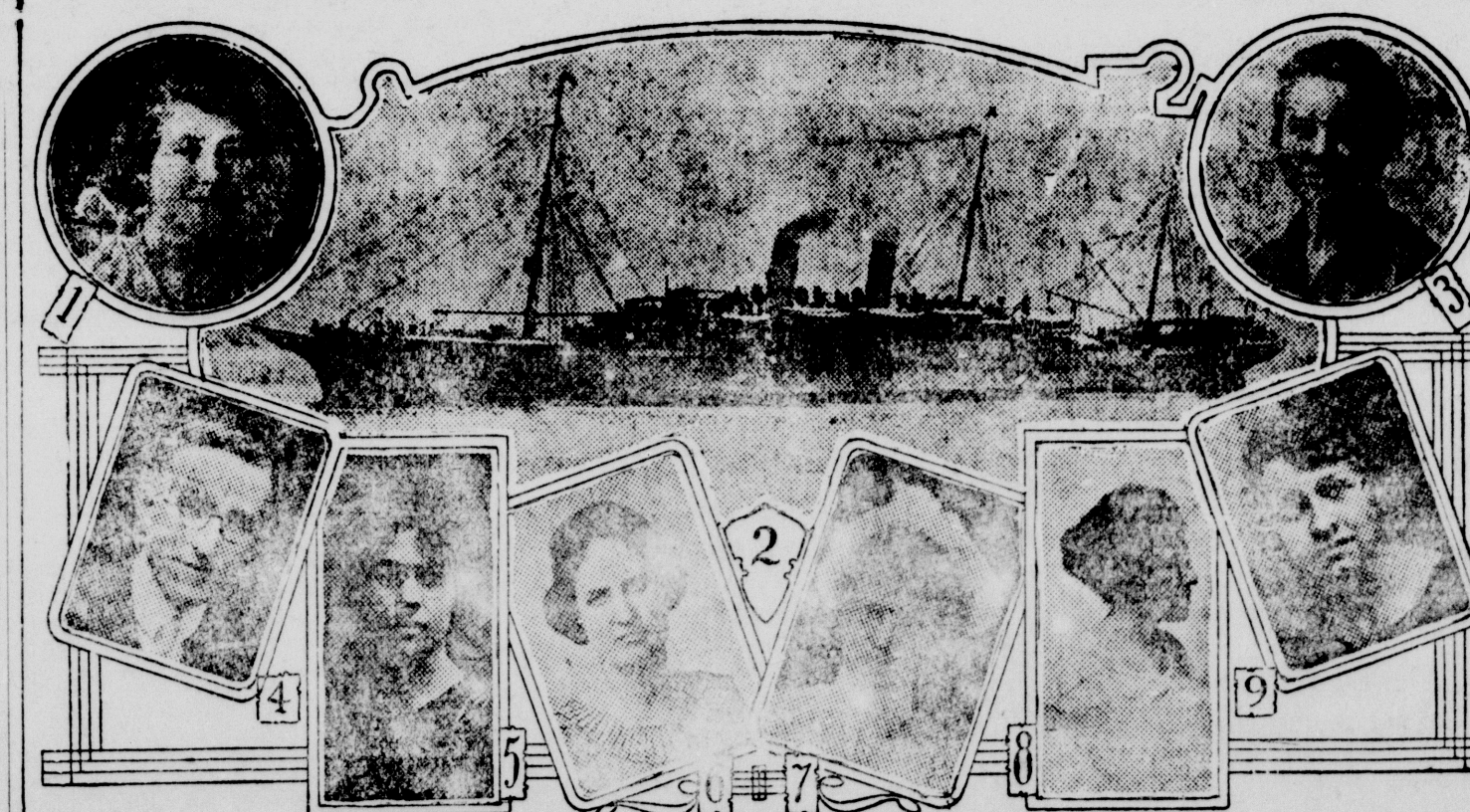


RUGS

- Community Silverware
- Electric Carpet Sweeper
- Vacuum carpet Sweeper
- Serving trays and Carts
- Smoking Stands
- Pedestals and Tabourets
- Shoe-Shine Cabinets
- Medicine Cabinets
- Brass Cuspidors and Jardineers
- Bed-Room Pictures
- Dining-Room Pictures
- Oval and Cabinet Picture Frames
- Rocking Chairs
- Dining Chairs
- Work Baskets
- Go-Carts and Cribs



Man @ Christian



THE TELEPHONE GIRL

The telephone girl sits still in her chair And listens to voices from everywhere; She knows all the gossip, she knows all the news; She knows who is happy and who has the blues; She knows all our sorrows, she knows all our joys; She knows all the girls who are chasing the boys; She knows all our trouble, she knows of our strife; She knows every man who talks mean to his wife; She knows every time we are out with the boys; She knows the excuses that each man employs.

If the telephone girl told but half that she knows It would turn all our friends into bitterest foes; She would sow a small wind that would soon be a gale, Engulf us in trouble and land us in jail. She would start forth a story that, gaining in force, Would cause half our wives to sue for divorce. She would get all our churches mixed up in a fight; She would turn all our joys into sorrowing night. In fact, she would keep the whole world in a stew. If she told but one-tenth of the things that she knew. Say, kid, but don't your head whirl When you think of what you owe the telephone girl?

The Empress of Japan, the Canadian Pacific Line, on which practically 100 Southern Baptist missionaries sailed from Vancouver, B. C., August 17, for China and Japan. Eight new missionaries from Texas were in the group as follows: Miss Zemma Hare, of Orange, who will do educational work at Kaiteng, China; Miss Laura Helen Coupland, of Longview (3), who goes to the same work; Rev. Joseph T. Fielder, of Abilene (4), who will do educational work at Chengchow; Mrs. Joseph T. Fielder, of Abilene (5), who likewise goes to Chengchow; Miss Blanche Groves, of Bridgeport (6), who goes to Soochow; Miss Eva Sullivan, of Garner (7), who will do medical work at Yangchow; Miss May Morton, of Dallas (8), who will do educational work at Wuchow, and Miss Cecile Lancaster, of Brownwood, who will teach in the Girls' School at Kumamoto, Japan.

A number of other young Texans are under consideration of the board to go to other fields. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Clifton, New Boston, will do evangelistic work in Pernambuco, Brazil; Miss Lee, of Hillsboro, and Miss Essie Fuller of Fort Worth, will do educational work in Pernambuco; Miss Mildred Mihls, of Austin, goes to the Girls' School at Rosario, Brazil; Miss Agnes Graham, of Dallas, goes to the Girls' School at Temuco, Chile; Rev. and Mrs. B. W. Orrick, of Madisonville, will do evangelistic work in Argentina; Miss Alice Bagby, Fort Worth, goes to the Girls' School at Sao Paulo, Brazil; Rev. and Mrs. J. I. Cowser, of Milford, to Fort Algere Field, Brazil, and Rev. and Mrs. E. G. Wilcox, of Fort Worth, to North Brazil.

Scan any paper that carries the general news of the country and you will find...

QUALITY GIFTS

Our store is filled with a very comprehensive and beautiful line of useful gifts for your holiday shopping. The selections made from our stock will prove the most acceptable of all gifts you buy.

Gold and Silver Pencils
Fine Chocolates
Fountain Pens
Silverware
Diamonds
Cut Glass
Watches
Jewelry

SHOP EARLY AND OFTEN AT—

SANDERS & INGRAM

Christmas Ideas

Do your Christmas shopping at the Melton Millinery Parlors. Many very pretty and useful gifts for milady on display:—

HAND-MADE LINGERIE, SUIT to MATCH
FLOWERS FOR YOUR FURS
HAND BAGS AND PURSES
MID WINTER HATS
BOUDOIR CAPS
COMBS
VEILS

Come see these appropriate presents before you make your selections!

MRS. E. B. MELTON

Fire Insurance!

I have bought the J. M. Crisp and the J. B. Green & Company Insurance Agency. I solicit a continuance of your business and shall appreciate any new business intrusted to me.

J. A. Simpson

Local News

Dr. J. P. Turner of Slidell was in the city this week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Renshaw from the Sweetwater community, were attending the Majestic last night.

John A. Simmons has returned from a hunting trip in South Texas. While on the border near Laredo John visited the Mexican town across the river. One deer was killed by the party.

Ex-commissioner W. B. Splawn is an applicant for assistant tax assessor to assess taxes in the Greenwood country.

A. J. Phillips was in Fort Worth on business.

Captain E. B. Brown of Greenwood, was in town this week.

T. F. Milligan of Fort Worth, visited his daughter, Mrs. J. V. Patterson.

Miss Esther Williams is proving herself as efficient and capable deputy district clerk, and the people who transact business with that office say she is one of the best deputies the county has had. Miss Esther has inaugurated a system that keeps tab on all papers taken from the office, requiring those who take the papers to sign up for them. By this means no "lost papers" are reported when litigation is on.

I have waited long enough; now, I want the money, so please pay what you owe. Mrs. E. B. Melton.

W. E. Moore, station agent of the Rock Island railroad at Boyd from March until September of this year, pleaded guilty to 16 embezzlement charges in the district court Tuesday morning. Moore appropriated money and shipments from the railroad company, which resulted in eleven cases being found against him, and five cases resulted from his embezzlements from the express company.

W. D. Phillips, who was elected cotton weigher for precinct No. 1, refused to qualify for the office, and the commissioners' court appointed James W. Smith to fill the office. Mr. Phillips, owing to other business matters, could not at this time take up the duties of the office, and he decided to not qualify. Mr. Smith is well known to the people of this precinct, and he will make a good and efficient cotton weigher.

Mill-run bran for \$2.15 per hundred at Lillard Milling Company. Phone your order to mill.

Fordson Brown, under indictment for stealing an automobile east of Decatur, escaped from the county jail Saturday night, and the sheriff's department is looking for him. The negro made his escape by breaking through the cell, then pushing out the rocks in the wall on the north side of the jail. He went through the patched hole made by the prisoners who escaped some time ago. This delivery is another proof that the Wise county jail should be made prisoner-proof.

Minnie Arthur Woodard (colored), wife of Albert Woodard, died at her home in Decatur last Saturday night, after a long illness. The funeral services were held at the home Tuesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. McNorton of Fort Worth, pastor of the local colored Baptist church. Interment was held at the city cemetery. Deceased was the daughter of Chas. and Betty Arthur, old-time and highly respected colored citizens. She was a Christian, was popular among her own race, and had many good friends among the people of Decatur.

Eli Pyeatt, one of the old-time citizens of Decatur, recently returned from Glen Rose, where he was under the treatment of Dr. Snyder. For some time after his return from Glen Rose Mr. Pyeatt improved in health, but a few days ago he began failing, and is now confined to his room.

The marble decorations at this week being placed in the Security State bank, which makes this one of the handsomest banks in the county.

Miss Ana Ely of Alvord, was the guest of Miss Annie Caddell, north of town, from Thursday until Saturday. She was accompanied home by Miss Annie.

Our Object

Better Photographs

THOMPSON'S STUDIO

I lost a Waterman's Ideal fountain pen Monday morning between the Manhattan Cafe and the Messenger office. Will reward finder for return to this office. Bill Jones.

Don't fail to hear the Decatur band concert and entertainment on Friday night, December 17th at the high school auditorium. Let's give the band boys a crowded house on this occasion.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away—buy your apples by the bushel from J. A. Wasson, East Main street.

The ladies of the Owl Club have taken up the work of beautifying and improving the public school playground. This action is very commendable indeed, and the Messenger congratulates the club upon its undertaking.

Wise County Home Protective Association No. 1 will hold its regular annual meeting on the first Monday in January, 1921, for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year. All members of the association are requested to be present.

The residence of Malcolm Mooney in Southwest Decatur, burned last Sunday morning about two o'clock. The family was absent from home at the time and the contents of the house were a total loss. The cause of the fire is unknown. \$1600 insurance was carried.

We will furnish, kill and dress any size hog and deliver to your house for 12c per pound. Phone us for particulars. Lillard Milling Co.

Sheriff Malone and County Attorney Patterson have received word from the officers at Corsicana to the effect that the woman and two men, who were members of the high-jacking party that visited Decatur last week, have been captured. One of the party, a woman, was arrested here by City Marshal Richter and Deputy Harve Tugwell.

On account of the appearance of Guinn Williams, Jr., at the Majestic tonight in "Cupid, the Cowpuncher," the entertainment of the Decatur band has been postponed until Friday night, December 17. A splendid program is being arranged by the band committee and one of the most enjoyable entertainments is promised Decatur people. At high school auditorium Friday night, December 17. Admission 15c and 25c; benefit Decatur band. Attend!

Rosalind Elaine Handley, the 3-year-old daughter of Prof. and Mrs. S. D. Handley, died at the family home in Rhome last Friday morning. The remains were accompanied from Rhome by a large number of friends of the family. The little girl was sick only about twenty-four hours, and her sudden death was a great shock to her relatives and friends. Rosalind Elaine Handley was born near Decatur on June 8, 1917, and during her short life had developed into a bright, intelligent child, and she was beloved of all who knew her.

Lawson Culpepper, aged twenty-seven, died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Leeman in this city last Friday. The funeral services were held at the family residence Saturday afternoon, conducted by Rev. R. E. Bell. The remains were shipped to Orange, the old home of the deceased, for interment. Mr. Culpepper had resided in Decatur with his cousin, Mrs. Leeman, for the past year, during which time he has been an invalid. His former home was in Orange. The funeral was attended by two brothers of the deceased, Messrs. W. H. and C. B. Culpepper of Vinton, La., and Orange. Mr. Culpepper was a member of the local Baptist church and a devout Christian. Since residing in Decatur he had gained many good friends.

GLASS FILL ADVS.
One Cent Per Word.
—CASH IN ADVANCE—
No Ad Taken for Less than 25c

LOST

LOST—Light brown glove for right hand with black stitching on back. Lost on the square Saturday. Return to Messenger office. Reward to finder. (49)

LOST—Mackinaw, dark and red plaid; lost between college and my home. Reward.—MRS. G. W. TYSON, or this office. (49)

LOST—Red sow pig, weigh about 75 pounds; strayed Tuesday night. Reward.—CARL CARPENTER. (49)

TO TRADE—Want to trade good span of mules for Ford car.—HOMER WILLIAMSON, carrier Route 4, Decatur. (50)

LOST—One roanish red bar shoat; weigh about 75 pounds; strayed from my home Saturday night. Reward.—TULLY FIELDS, basement of court house. (50)

LOST—A Waterman's Ideal fountain pen with gold point and holder on Monday morning between Manhattan Cafe and the Messenger office. Reward for return to BILL JONES at this office. (51)

FOUND

FOUND—Gentleman's gold ring with lodge emblem set. Owner may have same by describing, paying for this notice and paying reward.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY—A good second hand organ cheap for cash. Phone Decatur Southwestern No. 12.

WANTED—House and lot in Decatur, three to five rooms; small cash payment on choice 80-acre irrigated West Texas farm; terms to suit purchaser; also have listed with me irrigated and dry land farms from the Rio Grande valley to Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona—to trade for Wise and adjoining county lands and real estate. Describe and give price of your property in first letter, stating what you want. I have it.—M. G. FOSTER, Decatur. (50)

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Good 80 acre Bermuda and Johnson pasture; good house and barn; fine hay meadow; 1 1/2 miles west Decatur.—MRS. G. H. VAUGHN. (48)

FOR RENT—One room, comfortable, prefer young man or young lady. Apply Mrs. A. E. CHESNEY, North Trinity Street. (48)

FARM FOR RENT—83 acres, 60 acres in cultivation; balance pasture, seven miles southwest of Decatur; good house, small barn, orchard, vineyard. Will rent for cash or crop rent to good tenant. Address J. W. RIPPY & SON, 103 Commerce street, Fort Worth, Texas. (51)

FOR RENT—Furnished room; with gas. MRS. TOM MANN, Ind Phone.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Six utility single-comb red cockrocks of best strains, \$1.50 each.—S. E. PYEATT, Decatur, Texas. (48)

FOR SALE—Best priced lot in South Decatur; large size; near schools and fine homes. A good investment.—O. D. GOSE. (48)

FOR SALE—Home-made seeded ribbed syrup in 10-pound buckets.

Xmas Cakes and Cookies

Wise mothers will buy a plentiful supply of these good, wholesome cakes and cookies for the kiddies Christmas.

The way we make them, they taste like candy, only they are much better for the children to eat.

Our stocks are fresh every day—but it is best to place your order now for what you will want.

THE CITY BAKERY

After two years of building the new home of the
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Largest Circulation in Texas

Will be completed on January First

You Are Invited to Visit It

Not the largest, but one of the most modern plants in America. Your STAR-TELEGRAM will be dressed new—head to foot. Easy to read.

In addition to being a complete newspaper it will continue as the Picture Paper of the Southwest, with its superior

Green Art Picture Section



READ THE NEWS—THEN VIEW THE NEWS

The printed story tells part—maybe half. Pictures tell the other half—next year why not get the other half. Be well posted. Save Money and Subscribe during

Bargain Days

ANNUALLY DECEMBER 1st to 15th
The Rates are Reduced from \$10.00 and \$8.00

\$7.85 Daily and Sunday With Picture Section One Full Year You Save \$2.15	\$6.40 Daily Without Sunday Six Days a Week One Full Year You Save \$1.60
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This reduced rate good only in Texas and Okla Rate to all other states \$15.00 per year flat.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Last from the Press. More News, More Pictures More Features. More Cartoons.

Orders Taken At This Office

FOR SALE—Three Durec Jersey gilts; subject to register; bred; will be in Decatur first Monday. EDGAR RENSCHAW, Rt. 8, S. W. phone. 49

FOR SALE—Registered Poland Chinas, both big type and medium. Bred gilts, young boars ready for service, weaned pigs. Some bred gilts and service boars as low as \$25.00.—H. F. GILLETTE, Tom Boyd place, Rate 5. (53)

FOR SALE—Registered Poland Chinas, both big type and medium; some bred gilts and boars ready for service; priced as low as \$25.00 each. Also some weaned pigs.—H. F. GILLETTE, Tom Boyd place, on Route 5. (50)

FOR SALE—My residence just south of the public school.—H. W. BARTON. (50)

FOR SALE—John Deere binder, double disc plow, cream separator, washing machine, buggy. Will sell at auction on public square first Monday.—W. E. PRITCHETT. (49)

FARM FOR SALE—or rent; 1 acre of good land, with nice young orchard, four room house, plenty of good water. Apply R. G. NUTT, First Natl. Bank Decatur.

TO TRADE

TO TRADE—Nice farm in Adams county, La. 100 acres. DAVIS for you.

Greer's Going-Out-of-Business Sale

I am going out of business. But before I leave Decatur, I want to thank my friends for their patronage during the many years I have been in business here. I have bought a half-interest in the Greer Department Store in Amarillo, Texas, of my brother, D. H. Greer, and will go to Amarillo on January 1st, 1921. I am going to offer my entire stock of men's furnishings, ladies, shoes and hosiery, clothing, hats, shoes, hosiery, etc. at prices that will warrant your consideration. Every article must be sold during this sale. Prices will be such as you have not or will not be afforded again. We are closing out and making prices accordingly. THIS SALE CLOSES ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 24th, 1920. We are offering values that will long be remembered. We are not taking space to quote prices—everything included in this sale—so if you are going to be in need of anything, it will be to your advantage to come here!

ALL SHOES REDUCED TO ACTUAL COST

All shoes go in this sale! If you are going to need shoes even for next year, it will be to your advantage to buy now as you will not be able to buy at these prices! All shoes reduced to actual cost and below! In order to unload, we will include in this sale all men's boots, bootees and work shoes at actual cost!

HOSIERY

One special lot children's, misses' and boys' hosiery, regular values 35c and 50c, this sale.....20c

MEN'S SHIRTS AT BELOW COST

All men's no-fade dress shirts, soft and stiff cuffs, at actual cost!

SWEATER COATS

Men's sweater coats, values up to \$4.00, go at.....\$1.50
Men's sweater coats, values up to \$5.00, go at.....\$2.95
Men's and boys' slip-on sweaters V-neck.....One-half price

PHOENIX AND TOPSY HOSIERY

One lot Phoenix and Topsy lisle hose for ladies, regular price 75c to \$1, at only.....50c

MEN'S HOSE REDUCED

Phoenix silk hose, all colors....\$1.00
Phoenix lisle hose, all colors....50c

OVERSHOE SPECIALS

Men's one-buckle overshoes....\$1.50

\$14.00 LADIES' SHOES FOR \$6.85

One lot ladies' shoes, up to \$14.00 values, now at.....\$6.85

MEN'S UNION SUITS REDUCED

Men's heavy ribbed union suits and 2-piece suits, regular price \$2.50, for only.....\$1.50

Men's part-wool union suits, regular price \$3.50, at only.....\$2.00

Boys' union suits, priced up to \$1.75, at only.....\$1.00

MEN'S AND BOYS' CAPS

One lot of men's and boys' caps, values up to \$2.00, with and without ear flaps.....50c

This is the last opportunity you will have to buy real merchandise at prices that will not be equalled in Decatur, as we had rather get cost out of these goods than to move them. Everything on sale—come and get what you need! This close out sale coming at this time gives you a chance to buy your Xmas goods at prices that will not be equalled. No exchanges or refunds made—all sales must be for cash and final!

GREER'S CASH STORE

111 South Side Square

Decatur, Texas

TOUR OF THE STATES

(page one)

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der. Few of us had sufficient acquaintance with mechanical industries to readily see the very close relationship between them and agricultural interests. Mechanics and agriculture seemed to most of us wide apart in purposes, respectively; but, we were much pleased and benefited.

The Ford Motor Company was expecting us. Every boy knew something about Ford cars or tractors. Personal concern in the car at home and our curiosity to see the starting of those popular agencies for pleasure and usefulness increased our desire to reach the plant. Once in the ground, we in a dash, pushed thru this great plant. Its wonders and immensity was too much to be observed in detail. Hence, a rushing dash and a passing glance was most that could be noted, in memory only, for future reference.

A change of scene and conditions followed when all of us were ushered into a dance hall. Not many of us boys were so well trained for its pleasurable features as we were for cultivating growing crops or for raising blooded stock, or for caring for valuable feeders.

All courtesies were appreciatively recognized and we departed with grateful farewells as we hastened over the national line for a brief glance in Canada. We could not spend much time there; too much was ahead of us when we would recross the national line. We could hardly realize that we were clear out of the United States; but we were and everybody over there knew it and know that we were Texas boys. We enjoyed the courtesies shown us and in our own boyish way proved it as we started out afresh for sight-seeing lessons at the Niagara Falls. Pictures previously seen and descriptions read of this natural wonder scarcely prepared any of us for the scenes successively unfolded to us as we rounded the gorge and came face to face with the rapids and the ever-stirring, milling grinding whirl-pool. All of us were amazed, awe-stricken, dumbfounded; nor were the feelings of nervousness and dread lessened until we realized that real objects had changed to mental pictures.

Ithaca, New York, was our next stop. By invitation, we became sight seeing students at Cornell University and were accorded the privilege of visiting the demonstration farms, orchards and vineyards of the university. Valuable instruction was received by means of the object lessons and splendid lectures on practical agricultural matters.

Next, we were taken into America's metropolis. Often we had read about New York City, but few of us from southern farms had enjoyed its grand sights. Now, we were guests and were received by a committee of leading business men, that Texas had named to New York. We soon knew we were welcome and, felt that we had come to be fully appre-

men had been Texas boys and knew what would interest us. No pains were spared to prove their interest in our instruction and pleasure. We were taken through manufacturing plants and great stores; and, favored with a visit to China-town, down under the city. The remembrance of the unusual experience renews my scary feelings while down there. Something new awaited us everywhere—certainly at Coney Island. Here there was a panoramic display of every sport or pastime and every body seemed to be there and taking part in the amusements and pleasures.

The two succeeding days were spent in Washington, D. C. The time of our lives was opened to us there. We visited the great capitol building, the White House and the congressional library.

That afternoon we listed, in our itinerary, for a trip down the Potomac river to Mount Vernon, the former home of George Washington. We saw Washington's grave, in perfect order, his barns with farm tools of that day arranged according to old-time custom. We saw the old chain harness hanging on a partition wall and other things that were used in those days. We had been taught, that in those early days there was always plenty of time and no scarcity of labor. Nothing suffered for neglect on the farms or about the buildings on the premises. What we saw strongly supported that bit of information. We were permitted to pass through the dwelling house of Washington. In the kitchen, we saw old-time cooking utensils arranged according to the custom of that time. In his bed room a hat that he had worn (was hanging on the wall. Several of his old guns were pointed out to us. They were odd looking things compared with our modern firearms.

These were some of the things that caught our boyish glances and ran us back into the day of our great grandfathers; but the program of the day stopped us short and constrained our minds to keep pace with our guide's directions. It was time to return and we, with reverential respect for the final resting place of the father of our country and a true sense of patriotic devotion to our great country, we again set sail up the historic stream to the national capitol, where we on the following day visited the treasury building, the national cemetery and other places of importance and special interest. We felt that we had seen and learned much at that point on our itinerary.

August the eighteenth found us at Luray Cavern, which we explored as much as time allowed. Many curious and wonderful objects were seen and enjoyed by our entire party. Then we came to the Natural Bridge, a wonder of wonders. It will have to be seen to be fully appre-

ciated. No description can do it justice.

At Roanoke, Virginia, everybody seemed to be looking for us. Both cars and acts assured us that we were welcome visitors. They knew we had come to wonderland and wished us to fully realize the fact. The beautiful, picturesque and grand were pointed out to us; then, appropriate souvenirs descriptive of that wonderland in natural scenery were given us. We were almost willing to be persuaded to stay longer, but our program necessitated going forward.

When we reached Lexington, Kentucky, the board of trade did the liberal act in auto rides through the famous blue grass country. We saw beautiful farms, lovely homes, fine horses and magnificent cattle. Of course, everything was on the top round of prosperity; we were among millionaire farmers and stockmen but nothing was considered too good for Texas farm boys, who will materially assist in providing the supplies of the world and will aid in directing business activities.

On the move again, we made a short stop at Nashville, Tennessee, the home of Vanderbilt University, Peabody Normal and other popular educational institutions.

At Birmingham, Alabama, we were shown the great steel plants and other iron industries.

When we reached Montgomery, we were royally entertained by the chamber of commerce, rotary club and other live-wire business organizations. Points of historic interest were pointed out to us and will be long remembered for the actual pleasure and educational help.

Our next run was for New Orleans. We were shown the chief attractions of the city. In the city we saw many interesting places and objects for pleasure and study; the long wharves on the great Mississippi. We gazed and wondered especially at these facilities for shipping the vast products of farms and factories.

Now came our home run. We had had a great time and enjoyed every moment of the outing but we were thrilled with the thought of getting back into grand old Texas. When we arrived at College Station, every one of our party was present, and though tired and somewhat worn out, we wore smiles of gratitude for the lessons learned and the pleasures enjoyed. We had not words sufficiently expressive to assure the college officials who accompanied and guided us and our friends in our respective countries, and who made our trip a certainty, how grateful we were. We could only smile and silently resolve "to make good" among our fellow school mates by telling them what we had seen and learned; and, we pledged earnest efforts to carry into practice the practical lessons learned on the grandest tour ever provided for farm boys. In conclusion, we offer

many, many thanks to the Texas Chamber of Commerce, the A. & M. College, the Extension Service officials and our home friends.

HOTEL AT SUNSET BURNED SUNDAY

About one o'clock Sunday morning the Sunset citizens were awakened by the alarm of fire and awoke to find the hotel in flames.

The fire was first discovered by Paul Finn, and he had some difficulty in arousing the occupants, who were compelled to climb or jump from windows to escape being burned, and many of them were clad only in their night clothes.

Mrs. Robertson, who with her husband, was en route from Kansas City to Brownsville, sustained severe injuries in jumping from a second-story window, and was also badly burned on one arm. She is now in a critical condition at the home of Mrs. St. John.

The roofs of many of the houses north of the fire caught from burning shingles which were carried by the wind and it was only by hard work of citizens that the whole residence section north of the hotel was saved. The Bowie Fire Department was called and responded, but the building was already in ashes when they arrived.

The Sunset hotel was an old landmark in this section, having been built in 1882, and is well known to all travelers who frequent this part of the state.—Sunset Signal.

IN MEMORY OF ELAINE HANDLY

It is with humble submission that the Methodist Sunday school gives up one of her brightest jewels in the death of Elaine Handly. Lovely, lively, intelligent and affectionate, ever displaying a thoughtfulness beyond her years and to love such a promising child truly brings a deep and

heavy shadow. We can only remember that light sometime will break through and there will be a glad and happy reunion in the great beyond.

To her father and mother as a consolation in their great grief, we ask you to think of One who careth for us all and who loves little children. He has prepared a bright and beautiful home beyond the grave, and the spirit of the dear child will only wait a brief period when in sweetness and in love she will meet you to depart no more:—

God loves our hearts all desolate; He plucks our fairest sweetest flowers; Transplanted into bliss they now Adorn the immortal bowers.

Where'er He sees a smile too bright Or heart too pure for taint or vice He bears it to that world of light To dwell in Paradise! Committee, M. E. S. S.

E. P. Harding is now in Groesbeck, where he has accepted a position with an abstract company. Mr. Harding is one of the best abstracters ever in Decatur, and he will prove a valuable employe of the Groesbeck company.

"A Shine In Every Drop"

Get a Can TO-DAY From Your Hardware or Grocery Dealer



Lillard & Co. Has Cut the Prices!

Starting Saturday, December 11, Lillard & Company, the pioneer merchants of Wise county, will inaugurate a sale on hundreds of articles in their store, and, in view of the fact that at this particular time of the year the people are seeking bargains — endeavoring to get a full value of their money, this sale should appeal to the economical buyer. In the list you will find articles that are needed in your home, on the farm; useful every day in the year. Many suitable Christmas presents can be selected from this large and varied stock!

THIS REDUCTION SALE CONTINUES THRU THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!

BARGAINS IN STOVES

\$32.00 Perfection oil stoves....	\$27.50
\$42.00 Perfection oil stoves....	\$36.50
\$65 wood and coal cook stoves....	\$49.50
\$50 wood and coal cook stoves....	\$42.50
\$70 wood and coal cook stoves....	\$57.50
\$95 wood and coal cook stoves....	\$81.25
\$110 wood and coal cook stoves....	\$100
\$9.00 gas heaters.....	\$7.85
\$12.00 gas heaters.....	\$9.95
\$10.00 gas heaters.....	\$8.75
\$10.00 wood heaters.....	\$8.95
\$5.00 air tight heaters.....	\$3.95

FOR THE AUTO OWNER

30x3½ non-skid casings, with inner tube.....	\$21.00
32x4 auto casing.....	\$27.50
32x4 non-skid casing.....	\$31.00
\$75c spark plugs.....	49c
95c Champion-x spark plugs....	67c
75c Ford special spark plugs....	54c

BARGAINS IN TOOLS

\$3.00 single bit axes.....	\$2.48
\$3.50 double bit axes.....	\$2.98
30c files.....	20c
40c files.....	30c
\$2.00 shovels.....	\$1.65
\$6.50 wide cross-cut saws.....	\$5.65

SHELF HARDWARE

3-quart aluminum stew pan....	\$1.60
2-quart aluminum stew pan....	\$1.25
25c stoneware.....	20c per gallon
\$1.75 wash tubs.....	\$1.45
Two 9-inch pie pans for.....	15c
Two pint cups for.....	15c
35c sifters.....	25c
45c frying pans.....	30c
\$1.50 cups and sauces.....	\$1.24
\$1.50 plates.....	\$1.24
Chair seats.....	10c
\$3.50 copper tea kettles.....	\$2.95
Stove pipe.....	25c

LOW PRICES ON HARNESS

\$2.25 trace chains.....	\$1.85
7-8 wagon lines.....	\$6.78
1 wagon lines.....	\$7.78
1¼ wagon lines.....	\$10.98
Blind bridles.....	\$2.50
Blind bridles.....	\$3.25
Back bands.....	\$1.67
Back bands.....	\$1.89
Pole straps.....	\$1.29
Belly bands.....	\$1.06
\$27.00 wagon harness.....	\$22.50
\$32.50 wagon harness.....	\$27.50
\$95.00 saddles.....	\$85.00
\$100.00 saddles.....	\$87.50
Breast straps.....	\$2.60
\$12.00 collars.....	\$9.75
\$10.00 collars.....	\$8.75

Now is the time to buy your farm harness and a good cook stove for your wife!

You are invited to visit the big store and inspect these articles which have been substantially reduced in price! Come and look them over!

—SERVICE AND SATISFACTION—

Hardware
Implements

LILLARD & COMPANY

Automol
Tires-Tu

REVISED SCHEDULE FOR FORT WORTH & DENVER TRAINS

North Bound		
Ft. Worth	Decatur	W. Falls
*3—8:30 am	10:00 am	12:55 pm
*1—10:00 am	11:32 am	2:00 pm
*5—6:00 pm	7:50 pm	10:45 pm
*7—10:25 pm	12:02 am	2:50 am
South Bound		
W. Falls	Decatur	Ft. Worth
*8—3:05 am	5:40 am	7:15 am
*6—8:00 am	11:00 am	1:00 pm
*4—2:00 pm	4:59 pm	6:40 pm
*2—3:25 pm	5:55 pm	7:25 pm

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Frank Baits spent several days in Denton.

Miss Fannie Jones returned Saturday from Wichita Falls.

\$50.00 down, \$50.00 per month buys a Ford. Decatur Motor Co.

My residence just south of the public school for sale. H. W. Par-ton.

Mrs. Tullie Fields entertained the 42 Club at the San Ia Roy Saturday afternoon.

Gray shorts \$2.65 per hundred at Lillard Milling Company. Telephone your order.

Mrs. T. C. Thompson was visiting relatives and friends in Fort Worth the past week.

Wallace Nash was here several days from Dallas, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Nash.

Phillip Baits has accepted a position as deputy tax assessor under Assessor Victor Nobles.

If you want beautiful, white flour, ask your grocer for Pride of Texas. \$3.05 for 48-pound sack.

Mrs. Loy E. Clark, who has been ill for several days with rheumatism, is reported to be improving.

We will furnish, kill and dress any size hog and deliver to your house for 12c per pound. Phone us for particulars. Lillard Milling Co.

The grand jury which adjourned Saturday afternoon, after a session of one week, returned forty-nine indictments, which is said to be a record-breaker for the length of time the jury has been at work. The honorable body will convene after the holidays.

If you want beautiful, white flour, ask your grocer for Pride of Texas. \$3.05 for 48-pound sack.

Marvin Moore has gone with his well-drilling outfit to the shallow oil field near Waco.

Rev. Verden will preach at the Episcopal church tonight. You are invited to attend.

Have Man & Christian frame a nice picture or make a serving tray for one of your gifts.

We have a new stock of picture frames, mouldings and supplies for your holiday framing.

White shorts \$2.90 per hundred at Lillard Milling Company. Telephone your order to the mill.

Miss Hamlett, the expert milliner at the Mississippi Store, leaves today for her home in Kentucky.

White shorts \$2.90 per hundred at Lillard Milling Company. Telephone your order to the mill.

Twenty-five dressed hogs were shipped to Wichita Falls yesterday by Lillard & Company.

Mill-run bran for \$2.15 per hundred at Lillard Milling Company. Phone your order to mill.

James W. Glover of Boyd, died on December 1st. He was forty-seven years of age and single.

H. M. Helm was in Wichita Falls Monday attending the Ford Motor Company sales meeting.

Mill-run bran for \$2.15 per hundred at Lillard Milling Company. Phone your order to mill.

A pair of glasses, correctly fitted at E. W. Bass & Company's, would be an ideal Christmas gift!

We will furnish, kill and dress any size hog and deliver to your house for 12c per pound. Phone us for particulars. Lillard Milling Co.

The Decatur Oversize five played the D. B. C. five at the Baptist College last night.

The Worth-While club was entertained Thursday afternoon by Mrs. Terrell Lillard at her home in North Decatur.

I have just received a car of some choice apples, and have them for sale in the building just east of the City Meat Market.

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Williams, Mrs. T. E. Williams, Mrs. Claude Iles and Miss Amelia Williams spent Sunday in Decatur, visiting relatives.

Your friends can buy anything you can give them except your photograph. Have sitting made not at—THOMPSON'S STUDIO

Miss Margaret Rhine has returned from a visit to her father, who is in the St. Joseph infirmary. Miss Margaret reports her father improving.

TOY TREE TABLE DECORATION

Miniature Christmas Emblem May Be Surrounded With Presents Tied With Red Ribbon.

DECORATE the table with a Christmas tree, one of the toy ones, and pile around its foot a quantity of presents tied with red ribbons.

These should be only what a college man would call "grinds"—perhaps a tiny tin piano for a would-be performer, a lantern for the one the points of whose jokes are difficult to see, a placid paper golf bag for the enthusiastic player, and so on, each with a rhyme or quotation, says Harper's Bazar. If one considers a goose a somewhat undignified bird, ducks may be exchanged for it, either the domestic fowl or the more expensive canvas-back or redhead. Fried celery is very good with duck, the crispest pieces dropped in batter and then cooked in deep fat. But the apple sauce croquettes should not be omitted even with this. For this informal dinner there is a very good and innocuous drink to serve with the heavy course—sweet cider, spiced and sugared to taste, cooked ten minutes and served hot.

YULETIDE THORN TREE SAVED

Blooming Glastonbury, Subject of Beautiful Legends of Christmas, Was Doomed to Destruction.

ONE of the most beautiful legends of Christmas is that of the Glastonbury thorn. The thorn tree grew at Glastonbury Abbey, in Somersetshire, and was supposed to have developed from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea. According to the legend, Joseph came to Glastonbury and while he was resting on a hill, afterward known as Merry All hill, he stuck his staff in the earth. The staff immediately grew green and budded, and at Christmas time it blossomed into beautiful flowers.

One chronicler states that during Queen Elizabeth's reign the thorn had a double trunk, but that a somewhat bigoted Puritan, who disliked the tree because to his mind it smacked of popery, started to cut it down, and succeeded in demolishing one of the trunks. A miracle rescued the remaining trunk of the tree by causing a chip of wood to fly up and hit the Puritan in the eye, while at the same time he slipped and cut his leg. Later the tree was grubbed up, but a number of smaller trees raised from its original are said to be growing today.

owned by persons in the neighborhood.

Christmas Trees by Million

NURSERYMEN grow large quantities of Norway spruce for Christmas uses—rather more in the middle West, where conifers are not common in the woods, than on the eastern and western coasts, where they fringe every hillside. But the tree most commonly used is a short-needle pine found in the woods of Northern Michigan and Wisconsin. Early in September the Indians about the lumber camps of this region are set to work cutting these trees for the market, and by early November a little fleet of vessels makes its way down Lake Michigan, a Christmas tree hauled to the foremast of each one, that by this sign all may know that in their holds is a cargo which might not tempt a Captain Kidd, but is far more precious than many a one for which good ships have been scuttled.

Our Commercialized Christmas.

Christmas is the decoration day of a commercial age. Then, as on no other day, we face with compassion those who have fallen in our battles for wealth. For a moment we think of the thousands of children who have no share in that easy life we give our children, and must find the season's joy in the charity dinner. Along with the barter to which we have debased our giving within our circle of acquaintances, we play at extending the spirit of the day to those who are the pawns of our industrial game. The Salvation army lass, standing cold and numb on the street corner, collecting funds for Christmas baskets for the poor, reminds us of the wreckage left in the wake of our prosperity. We give a trifle to help the poor temper the bitterness of the year with a couple of hours' good eating.

A PESSIMIST

Duck: I'll bet I get a raincoat, or a pair of rubbers, or something like that for Christmas.

WALKING AND TALKING DOLLS

Lifelike Forms Gracefully Step Across the Floor Saying "Mamma" or "Papa."

DOLLS that walk and talk and wink and roll their eyes are Parisian Christmas novelties in toyland. These dolls seem almost human, as they walk in sprightly style across the floor saying "mamma" or "papa" just as real children would.

Walking dolls being a new invention, seem wonderful and bring screams of delight from little girls and boys, too, who watch with intense interest every step of the lifelike dolls as they are exhibited in the shops.

The machinery that moves the doll's legs is set in motion by a key that is inserted in the works at the waist line.

The voice is made active by works that are wound with a key.

The eyes move as the body sways from side to side, just as the real children's eyes roll and blink, etc.

CHRISTMAS WEEK IN ENGLAND

Time When Scattered Families Are United and Tender Memories Are Revived.

MANY and great are the changes which have occurred in England since Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol," but they have not affected the national love for the festival and the determination to preserve unimpaired the traditional warmth and heartiness of its celebration. Christmas week is still the great week of the year for the English people. It is the one week when scattered families are reunited, when tender memories and old associations are revived, when friend greets friend with a cheery expansiveness in striking contrast with the characteristic reserve of the English nature, so, undemonstrative to those who do not know it well, apparently so distant and unsympathetic.

From Wednesday all business will be suspended, not to be resumed till Monday morning. The whole nation will give itself up to good cheer and good fellowship, and for a brief season, all strife and controversy are hushed, and peace, charity and concord reign supreme.

Substitute for a Tree. Not going to have a Christmas tree?

ornaments are no good deal. My in place of a tree now in a closet, dark green cambr the great holiday sprigs of evergree It will look pretty it is filled with the ing into it now, and tied, and my Santa Claus stands to its mysteries and names of those who I am sure we will en much as we would a

Best of All

TAKING it all in be safely as Christmas is the mer best of all holiday which is likely to be ages yet to come. Ne rise and fall, new bel tions may sweep aw but that would seem dreary and empty year brought no merry Christ its annual round. May other Time long spare his day to mankind to gladden hearts of all with its co and may each Christmas still merrier than the last.

An Ancient Christmas Dish

An indispensable Christmas ancient times was "frumante." Here is the recipe for the dish according to a full old chronicler: "Take clean and bray it in a mortar until the be all gone off, and seethe it a burst, and take it up and let it and take clean, fresh broth and milk of almonds or sweet milk and temper it all; and take the of eggs. Boil it a little and s down and mess it forth with fat son or fresh mutton." Frumenty often served alone without venison mutton. When served by itself it well sweetened.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

1920

and The Christmas Spirit



"WHAT SHALL I GIVE TO MY LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS?" IS THE ONE QUESTION THAT IS PERPLEXING MORE PEOPLE TODAY THAN ANY OTHER. FORTUNATE IS THE ONE WHO IS POSSESSED WITH THE SPIRIT OF MAKING OTHERS HAPPY, BUT WHY A BURDEN WHEN IT CAN SO EASILY BE MADE A PLEASURE? TO REALIZE TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT THE PLEASURE OF SHOPPING THIS CHRISTMAS TIME, YOU MUST VISIT OUR STORE SOON. ON EVERY HAND YOU WILL FIND SUGGESTIONS A-PLENTY FOR GIFTS FOR YOUNG AND OLD. OUR EFFICIENT SALES FORCE WILL TAKE AN INTEREST IN YOUR EVERY WANT AND WILL ASSIST YOU IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE IN MAKING YOUR SHOPPING A JOY AND PLEASURE!

LADIES' COATS AND COAT SUITS AT HALF-PRICE

We have cut the price just half in two in our ladies' ready-to-wear department—all coats and coat suits are going at just half the former prices. Now is your best opportunity to give your wife, mother or sister a gift which will make them happy.

Only a few silk poplin dresses left, and they will go for the special value of one-half the former price!



LADIES' DRESSES

A special group of tricotine and satin dresses. Models of distinction in character and quality—at one-half the former price!

Another lot of French serge dresses, some embroidered, others trimmed with military braid and buttons; colors—burgundy, green and navy. These you can buy for one-half the former price!

One lot silk and serge dresses in navy, burgundy, green and tan, will go at one-half the former price!



LADIES' SILK HOSIERY

We are showing a very prettily line of ladies' hosiery in silk and lisle, all at bargain prices. Select your gifts for her from this department and she will be pleased.

MEN'S SILK AND DRESS SHIRTS

We have a pretty showing of the new colors in men's silk and dress shirts, and the prices have been greatly reduced. A silk shirt will answer the gift question.

New line of men's dress gloves—make splendid gifts!

BEAUTIFUL SHOWING OF LADIES' WAISTS

We have a beautiful assortment of ladies' waists in all of the newest shades in georgettes, crepe de chines and satins. The exquisite workmanship, style and design of our blouses cannot be excelled. Be sure to visit this department, as every woman will appreciate thoughtfulness of a gift of a beautiful blouse—half the former price!



CHILDREN'S COATS

We have just received a beautiful line of children's coats in all of the newest shades and fabrics—at one-half the former price!

Shop early and secure the best selections!

MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING AT HALF-PRICE

We are continuing our half-price sale on all of our clothing for the holiday trade in order to give you a chance to save money on your holiday purchases. Here you will find the most reliable brands of clothing at very low prices.

Pretty line of men's ties for Holiday Gifts!



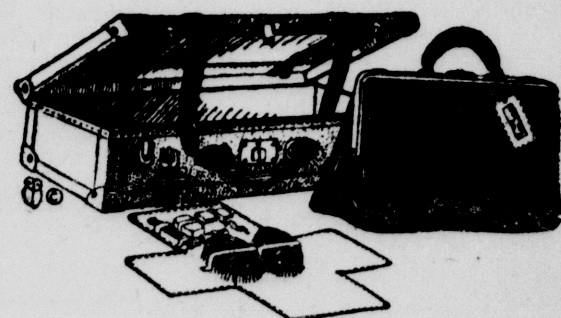
GIFTS FOR BABY

We haven't forgotten the baby in selecting gifts for Christmas: Baby caps, baby wool mittens, baby sack and cap to match, baby snow ball suit in red and white—all at prices you will be glad to pay!



MEN'S HATS REDUCED

Our great reductions are shown in our big hat department. Here you will find the famous Stetson and other standard brands of hats of the new styles at bargain prices. He would appreciate a Stetson for a gift.



HAND BAGS, SUIT CASES

No more appropriate gift could be selected than one from our line of hand bags, grips, suit cases and trunks!

JUST RECEIVED A BIG SHIPMENT OF LADIES' AND MISSES' COATS THAT WERE BOUGHT AT A BIG SAVING AND WE HAVE THEM ON DISPLAY AT BARGAIN PRICES. BE SURE TO MAKE US A VISIT AND WE WILL TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN HELPING YOU WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

BELLAH-BAILEY CO.

"THE STORE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE"

WEST SIDE SQUARE—DECATUR, TX.

HOLIDAY BARGAINS

Down Tumble the Prices!

Once More Lillard's Mississippi Store Makes the Biggest Cut of Year

We have gone through our entire stock and slashed prices to the bone. Now is your chance to supply your needs at rock-bottom prices—just at the time you need them most!

A LANDSLIDE IN DRY GOODS, WOMEN'S SUITS, WOMEN'S COATS, CHILDREN'S COATS, READY-TO-WEAR, MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING, OVERCOATS, UNDERWEAR, HATS, CAPS, GLOVES, SHOES, BOOTEES AND HOSIERY VALUES!

To you who have been waiting for lower prices—here they are! We have taken our medicine and have made tremendous cuts on every article in the house and for the rest of the year we are going to give to the people of Decatur and Wise county the best bargains they have seen in many moons! We had no idea any such prices could be made during 1920, but the price-adjusting time is here and we have met it with a smile!

To make it doubly interesting, we are making our January Clearance Sale prices on top of these great price-reductions, thus giving you two big reductions in one! If you miss this sale you will regret it. Come and see for your own good and supply your wants for the winter!

The prices under the bargain pots will be kept burning all through December, which will make every day in December a Bargain Day.

SOME GOODS AT COST—SOME AT LESS THAN COST—SOME AT LESS THAN HALF PRICE—AT

LILLARD'S MISSISSIPPI STORE

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Messenger of Dec. 14, 1920

Guy Donald has returned from an extended tour.

H. H. Halsell made a business trip to Henrietta Monday.

J. E. Swepston has begun his school at Foster, near Audubon.

Misses Glen and Josephine Halsell visited in Fort Worth Monday.

Miss May Archer is expected to spend the holidays visiting in Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Cates left Wednesday afternoon for Austin and San Antonio.

The popular young lawyers, Ford & Walker, attended court in Greenwood Wednesday.

Miss Alvis Shoemaker of Chickasha, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Florence Bonner, this week.

Jim Tankersley came in Tuesday from Childress to spend the Xmas holidays with homefolks.

Shelton Rogers, little son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Rogers, happened to the sad accident of breaking his arm Tuesday.

T. B. Yarbrough, Mrs. Furd Halsell and Miss Glen Halsell took in the "Mid-Summer Night's Dream" at Fort Worth opera house Monday night.

J. W. Walker, Justice of the Peace of Precinct No. 8, was a Decatur visitor Wednesday. While here he fitted himself up with stationery for his office at the Messenger job office.

Marriage licenses:—C. L. Golden and Miss Daisy Cartwright; M. H. Fortwood and Miss Nannie Castles; D. D. House and Miss Willie Polson; S. C. Shannon and Miss M. F. Cartner; J. S. Harper and Miss Addie Godby; J. R. Higdon and Miss Maggie Alexander; F. G. Hill and Miss Fannie George; J. M. Williams and Mrs. Mattie Given.

W. I. Ward, one of Springtown's most enterprising business men and brother of President J. L. Ward of Decatur Baptist College, spent last Monday in the city. We hear it is intimated that Mr. Ward may locate here in the near future. He is well known to all our people, having been county clerk of this county from 1884 to 1888, and we feel sure he and his estimable family would receive a hearty welcome.

photographer, is building an elegant new five-room residence adjoining his photograph gallery. Mr. Bunneil presented a Messenger representative with a photograph taken by his little daughter, Grace, a few days ago in the open air, that shows wonderful ability for a child of her age. In fact, it would take a more artistic eye than ours to see anything wrong with the picture, whatever. Miss Grace displays wonderful artistic skill.

The Lillard Banking Company will soon be made a national bank with \$75,000 capital and surplus. Application has already been made and as soon as the necessary arrangements can be perfected, the business will be conducted in the name of the City National Bank. The directors will consist of S. A. Lillard, H. L. Ward, J. F. Ward, J. S. Lane and E. L. Lillard. The directors are all successful business men with ample means and the success of the enterprise from the beginning is assured.

The following young people had a lively "possum hunt" last Tuesday night: Gordon Thomason, Cliff D. Cates, E. P. Gibson, T. B. Yarbrough, George Flannigan, Rob Simmons, Jack Cates, Press Terrell, W. H. Atwood, Guy Waggoner, Mrs. Ras Saufley and Misses Buna Waggoner, Electra Waggoner, Josephine Halsell, Glen Halsell, Gorda Bussey, Jessie Collins, Ada Cates, Inez Lindley, Edna Earheart, Maude Riley, Bertha Saufley, and a colored contingent. The catch was not very heavy, but they made so much noise that nocturnal game will be scarce for some time. At ten o'clock lunch was served and all returned to their homes with pleasant recollections of the evening's hunt.

CARD OF THANKS

Words fail to express our heartfelt thanks to all who were so kind in the sad hours when our little angel, Elaine, was called from this world to her heavenly home where there are no sorrows, no sickness, no parting.

We miss her every hour, for she was always smiling and playing; and there is a vacant chair that can never be filled, but we have the happy promise that we can go to her.

May God bless everyone who was so kind and loving to us and to those who placed such beautiful flowers to her memory. MR. AND MRS. S. D. HANDLEY AND FAMILY.

Guinn Williams, W. C. Milligan, Chas. Stokes, A. L. Alland, W. V. Patton, W. W. Brown, Jas. W. Smith, H. E. Man and G. S. Blewett are in Waco attending the Masonic Grand lodge and Grand Chapter as representatives from Decatur lodges.

INCREASED PHONE RATE AT ALVORD

The raising of telephone rates is contagious, it would appear from the records in the federal court.

Hardly had Judge Wilson finished handing down his final decision in the injunction proceedings brought by the Dallas Telephone Company against the city of Dallas, Friday afternoon, when A. C. Hughes, who owns the Alvord system, appeared with a plea for similar action in Fort Worth.

Hughes, through his attorney, Stanley Boykin, in an application filed with the court, alleges that the present rates charged in Alvord do not allow him a reasonable return on his investment. Despite this, the city refuses to allow him to raise them and threatens to enjoin him if he does so. Subscribers threaten to refuse to pay higher rates and to enter suit against him.

The present rates are \$2.50 for business phones and \$1.50 for residence phones. Hughes would like to charge \$4 and \$2.50. He asks that the city of Alvord, its mayor and aldermen, and G. H. Redwine, a citizen, be enjoined from interfering with his schedule and from annoying him with suits.

Judge Wilson ordered the defendants to appear at ten o'clock on December 13, to show cause why a temporary injunction should not be issued.

Hughes explained that the contemplated raised affected only the city and that country subscribers would not be bothered.

News from Allison

A few are still trying to sow wheat.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox were in Decatur Friday.

Andrew Kellum was in Decatur Saturday.

Prof and Mrs. Smith were Decatur visitors Saturday.

Mr. Wilhite and family of Oak Grove, visited Mr. and Mrs. Patton Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kellum were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cicero Taylor Sunday.

Our school is progressing nicely with Mr. Smith and Mrs. Parrish as teachers.

Only a few of us attended first Monday at Decatur on account of the bad weather.

Rain, rain and nothing but rain.

The health of our community is reasonably good.

A large crowd enjoyed a party given by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Patton on Saturday night.

Arch Lambert has returned from West Texas and Oklahoma, where he has been at work.

Mrs. Lee Thomas of near Denton, is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cryer.

Homer Moore of the Sweetwater community, was a visitor of Houston Leake Sunday night.

Misses Laura Reynolds and Willie Lewis spent an enjoyable day with Miss Letha Cox last Sunday.

WEST.

Rest is not quitting the busy career;

Rest is the fitting of self to one's sphere.

'Tis the brook's motion clear without strife;

Fleeing to the ocean after its life.

'Tis loving and serving the highest and best;

'Tis onward, unswerving, and this is true rest.

THE COTTON SITUATION

There is but one way to stop the continued decline in the price of spot cotton, and that is to absolutely stop selling. So long as even a small ration of cotton is daily fed to the local markets, just so long will the present limited demand be met, and bearish speculators be enabled to keep their throttle hold on prices.

If every bale of cotton now in the South were locked up in a warehouse or on the farm, for even a period of ten days, the short sellers would run to cover and prices would begin to advance. No power on earth can check the present decline in cotton prices, so long as farmers are constantly feeding the staple into the local markets.

The sellers of cotton at these prices are not only breaking themselves financially, but they are contributing to the financial wreck and ruin of the entire south.

Stop selling—refuse to market a single bale. Use the warehouse receipt as a medium of exchange, in the liquidation of credits, for extensions of loans and to secure necessary funds to purchase imperatively needed supplies on the farm, and for the gathering of the crop. Every bale of cotton sold is a gift offered to the rapacious maw of the speculator and a weapon which can be used to break more hearts and ruin more lives. No

leader in any great battle can whip the enemy unless every man does his full duty and makes every sacrifice required.

There must be unity of action and co-operative effort in this fight, unless the South is willing to enslave itself to foreign spinners and speculators. The sale of cotton at these prices will enrich the spinners, impoverishing the cotton growers, merchants and bankers of the South.

The American Cotton Association can and will lead this movement to success, if those for whom its hardest efforts are being made, will rally to the battle cry, hold their cotton and stand firm against every pressure from without. There is absolutely no question that cotton values will reach higher levels a little later on. No matter how severe a storm may be, it is always short lived, the sunshine will return. All over the South the farmers are now determinedly holding their cotton. Texas and Oklahoma, which sold heavily early in the season, have joined in the movement and practically none is being sold now by farmers. Less than eleven per cent of the Alabama crop has been marketed and the other southeastern state are doing almost as well.

The whole nation is becoming aroused over the unholy artificial deflation in the values of farm commodities. Plans are being rapidly whipped into shape that will tend to clarify the situation, open the markets of the world and through increased demand push prices back to a normal basis. But these factors cannot check declines if the owners of cotton persist in feeding the staple to the market.

We urge every farmer in the South to refuse the present ruinous prices for his cotton. Stop selling and force the bear operators to deliver the tissue paper contracts they are dealing in, to those who are buying on the exchanges.

AMERICAN COTTON ASS'N.

KI-MOIDS

(Tablets or Granules)

For INDIGESTION

Take dry on tongue or with hot or cold water.

QUICK RELIEF!

Price, 25-50-75¢

MADE BY SCOTT & BOWNE
MAKERS OF
SCOTT'S EMULSION

Haltom's The House of Diamonds



The Hallmark of a safe Place to Buy

JEWELRY

Quality and prices will appeal to people of good judgment—

The Gift of Gifts is

Haltom Diamond

Our Reputation Your Safeguard

Buy Your Xmas Gifts Now!

HALTOM'S
MAIN AND SIXTH STS.
FORT WORTH

HALTOM'S
THE HOUSE OF DIAMONDS
MAIN AND SIXTH STS.
FORT WORTH

Owen's Barber Shop

Best of Service in Tonsorial Work

North Trinity Street

New Christmas goods at B. W. Bass & Company, cut glass, jewelry, verware, etc.